

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing access to database objects, the method comprising:
displaying in a computer user interface an object selection area capable of
presenting representations of a plurality of database objects for selection by a user, each
of the database objects being associated with one of a plurality of predetermined contexts,
the user interface comprising a plurality of panels for presenting portions of data
belonging to database objects selected in the object selection area, some of which panels
are relevant to more than one of the contexts;

receiving an input from the user selecting a database object presented in the object
selection area; and

displaying in the user interface a panel selection control associated with the
context of the selected database object, the panel selection control providing that the user
can select for display any of the panels that are relevant to the context of the selected
database object, wherein any of the selectable panels that are relevant also to a different
context can also be selected in a panel selection control associated with the different
context.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the panel display
control among a plurality of panel selection controls associated with respective contexts.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising generating an event associated
with the context of the selected database object, wherein the panel selection control is
selected using the generated event.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein each of the panel selection controls have
events associated with them, and wherein selecting the panel selection control comprises
deactivating any of the panel selection controls for which the generated event does not
match.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a second input selecting a second database object associated with a second context;
generating a second event associated with the second context; and
using the second event to select a second panel selection control for display in the computer user interface, the second panel selection control being associated with the second context.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the panel selection control is capable of receiving content for any of the contexts, further comprising providing the panel selection control with a content for the context of the selected database object.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving a second input selecting a second database object associated with a second context; and
providing the panel selection control with a second content for the second context.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the panel selection control comprises at least two controls that the user can execute in selecting panels for display, each control being associated with at least one of the panels.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the context of the selected object is selected from the group consisting of: country, employer, and combinations thereof.

10. A computer program product containing executable instructions that when executed cause a processor to perform operations comprising:

display in a computer user interface an object selection area capable of presenting representations of a plurality of database objects for selection by a user, each of the database objects being associated with one of a plurality of predetermined contexts, the user interface comprising a plurality of panels for presenting portions of data belonging to database objects selected in the object selection area, some of which panels are relevant to more than one of the contexts;

receive an input from the user selecting a database object presented in the object selection area; and

display in the user interface a panel selection control associated with the context of the selected database object, the panel selection control providing that the user can select for display any of the panels that are relevant to the context of the selected database object, wherein any of the selectable panels that are relevant also to a different context can also be selected in a panel selection control associated with the different context.

11. A computer system providing access to database objects, the computer system comprising:

database objects that comprise data portions, each database object being associated with one of a plurality of predetermined contexts;

panels that can be displayed in a user interface, each panel being capable of presenting at least one data portion belonging to a selected object, at least a first panel being relevant to only one of the contexts and at least a second panel being relevant to more than one of the contexts; and

panel selection controls that can be displayed in the user interface, each panel selection control being associated with one of the contexts, wherein the first panel can be selected in a panel selection control associated with the context to which the first panel is relevant and wherein the second panel can be selected in any of the panel selection controls associated with the contexts to which the second panel is relevant.

12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein each of the panel selection controls is associated with respective events for the contexts, and wherein the system selects one of the panel selection controls for display using an event triggered by a selection of one of the database objects.

13. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the panel selection controls associated with the plurality of contexts are formed by providing content to a generic panel selection control.

14. A repository comprising a plurality of panels that can be displayed in a computer user interface to present portions of data belonging to database objects, each data object being associated with one of a plurality of predetermined contexts, at least a first panel being relevant to only one of the contexts and at least a second panel being relevant to more than one of the contexts, wherein panels relevant to a selected context can be retrieved from the repository.

15. The repository of claim 14, further comprising a panel selection control associated with a first context, wherein a user can select panels relevant to the first context using the panel selection control.

16. The repository of claim 15, wherein the panel selection control is selected from a plurality of panel selection controls, each being associated with respective events for the contexts, and wherein the panel selection control is selected using an event triggered by a selection of a database object associated with the first context.

17. The repository of claim 15, wherein the panel selection control is formed by providing content for the first context to a generic panel selection control.

18. The repository of claim 14, wherein the selected context comprises at least one of: country, employer, and combinations thereof.